

Legislation addresses signature injury of Iraq war

March 17, 2009

Washington, DC – This afternoon, Congressman Jerry McNerney (CA-11) introduced a piece of critical legislation to address the needs of veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). “Many of our soldiers who have been wounded in Iraq have experienced a Traumatic Brain Injury. In fact, TBI is the leading cause of non-battle related deaths among U.S. military personnel in Iraq and Afghanistan,” McNerney said. “It is incumbent on us to ensure that the Veterans Administration is equipped and ready to provide the care and support these veterans need.”

The Caring for Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury Act of 2009 will establish a special panel within the VA to oversee the care of veterans with TBI. In addition, the bill, H.R. 1546, will help establish TBI-specific education and training programs for VA’s health care providers.

“Our men and women in uniform have put their lives on the line,” said Rep. McNerney. “It is imperative that we do everything we can to ensure they are properly cared for when they return home.”

Congressman McNerney introduced similar legislation in 2007. H.R. 1546 will now be referred to the House of Representatives.